

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BLANTY 01583 141845Z

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03

SPC-01 L-02 DRC-01 /057 W

----- 125124

R 141335Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6639

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1583

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MI, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ISRAELI - MALAWI RELATIONS

REF: STATE 222440 (NOTAL)

1. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME NOV 14 AND ASKED IF I HAD NOTED ANY RECENT SIGNS MALAWI MIGHT BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. HE REFERRED TO RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT OF BREAK BY BOTSWANA. ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND HAVE JUST CONCLUDED CONFERENCE AND HE APPREHENSIVE ALL THREE MAY HAVE AGREED TO SEVER RELATIONS. THIS WOULD LEAVE MALAWI, EXCEPT FOR MAURITIUS, WHICH HE PLACED IN SPECIAL CATEGORY, AS ONLY AFRICAN COUNTRY TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PRESIDENT BANDA MIGHT CONCLUDE HE UNABLE WITHSTAND MOUNTING PRESSURE. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT OAU MEETING CALLED FOR LATE NOVEMBER UNDOUBTEDLY TO DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST. THIS MIGHT PROVIDE FORUM FOR BRINGING STRONG PRESSURE ON MALAWI. HE ASKED IF WE KNEW WHETHER MALAWI PLANNED ATTEND.

2. I REPLIED WE HAD NO INDICATION MALAWI CONSIDERING BREAK IN
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PAGE 02 BLANTY 01583 141845Z

RELATIONS AND CONTINUED TO THINK THIS UNLIKELY. IN PAST PRESIDENT

BANDA HAS SHOWN HIMSELF RELATIVELY IMMUNE TO PRESSURES FROM OTHER AFRICAN STATES ON SUCH MATTERS AND HAS EVEN TAKEN PRIDE IN ROLE AS "ODD MAN OUT." AMBASSADOR SAID THIS ALSO HIS OPINION BUT GOI WAS NERVOUS OVER POSSIBLE BREAK. IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH MALAWIANS THEY HAD UNIFORMLY TAKEN STRONGLY PRO-ISRAELI LINE. WE AGREED TO CONTINUE CAREFUL WATCH FOR ANY SHIFT IN MALAWI ATTITUDE AND TO KEEP IN TOUCH.

3. AMBASSADOR INFORMED SUBSTANCE REFTEL.

4. COMMENT: WE WOULD WELCOME ASSESSMENT POSITIONS LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND.
BURDETT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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